Title: Regarding privatization of Coal Industry in the country.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. It is reported that Government of India is considering to privatise the whole coal industry in our country. It would result in thousands and thousands of workers being thrown out of their jobs. This year itself more than 70,000 workers would be thrown out from Eastern Coal Field which is situated in West Bengal and Bihar. That would also hasten the process of surrendering our strong economic base which has come about because of the public sector undertakings. The coal industry was nationalised during the regime of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, keeping in view the welfare of the country, welfare of the coal industry and the welfare of the coal workers. This Government is privatising all the industries one after the other. They have already privatised the insurance and banking sectors; and they have already privatised the Vizag Steel Plant and the Salem Steel Plant. Now, they are going to privatise the entire coal industry which would adversely affect our economy. I strongly oppose this decision of the Government of India. I demand that the Government should immediately revoke and reverse this decision in the greater interest of the country, in the interest of the coal industry and in the interest of its workers.